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IDHS UNVEILS INDIANA STRATEGY FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

Indianapolis – Today the Indiana Department of Homeland Security unveiled a new comprehensive strategic plan for homeland security initiatives in Indiana.

The *Indiana Strategy for Homeland Security* outlines a number of plans and activities that will help the state improve its overall preparedness for manmade or natural disasters. It has been approved by the Indiana Counter-Terrorism and Security Council (CTASC), which is a multi-agency body headed by Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman.

“This plan shows Hoosiers we are committed to ensuring their safety and security. It allows us to build on the progress that has already been made and gives the focus needed to move forward with new initiatives,” said Lt. Governor Skillman. “Hoosiers should feel confident that we are strategically focused on improving our overall readiness and are committed to doing all we can to protect the lives and property of our fellow citizens.”

“The development of this plan is an important step towards achieving our vision of becoming a nationally recognized leader for an effective, comprehensive homeland security system,” said IDHS Executive Director J. Eric Dietz. “The execution of the plan will help ensure that Indiana is as prepared as possible for any future event that we may be confronted with.”

The plan features eight strategic goals and outlines initiatives that will help Indiana achieve them. These goals focus on:

- **Teamwork** – Enhance coordination between homeland security partners and integrate all disciplines.
- **Planning and Risk Analysis** - Develop requirements-based and capabilities-based, statewide, comprehensive plans to address natural and manmade hazards.
- **Protect** - Reduce the risk to Indiana's critical infrastructure. Critical Infrastructure and Key Resource (CI/KR) sites are those deemed most crucial in terms of public health and safety, governance, economic and national security, and public confidence consequences.

- **Outreach and Engagement** – Engage and educate the public and media on homeland security issues. The public and media play very large roles in the response to a disaster. Educating them on our predicted actions, and actions they can take to protect themselves, are keys to efficient and productive disaster responses.
- **Training and Exercise** – Establish world-class training and exercise facilities, curriculum and networks. Indiana has tremendous development capacity for a training and exercise system that will not only enable pre-eminence in our state, but enhance the capabilities of first responders across the country.
- **Response** – Promote and optimize coordination of disaster responses. Indiana's comprehensive preparations will allow our first responders to respond to disasters within our borders, and assist other states when disasters occur outside our borders.
- **Medical** – Establish an effective disaster medical capability. Indiana's abundance of resources in the health and emergency medical systems ideally position it for key roles in disaster responses.
- **Economic Security** – Promote economic security through partnerships and the development of homeland security innovations. As evidenced by the disasters in the Gulf Coast region caused by hurricanes in 2005, the supply chain for response and recovery operations is crucial. Prevention of supply chain disruptions will be a key component of recovery planning.

"A key theme of this plan is teamwork," said Dietz. "As we witnessed with the response to the deadly tornados in Southwest Indiana last November, an effective response requires the coordinated efforts of multiple agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. Achieving the goal of teamwork will subsequently help us achieve the other goals included in this plan."

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